



NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION  
4201 WILSON BOULEVARD  
ARLINGTON, VA 22230

Title: Division of Undergraduate Education  
Employment Opportunities--Dear Colleague Letter

Date: April 13, 2005

Dear Colleague:

The Division of Undergraduate Education (DUE) announces a nationwide search for a number of Program Director positions at the National Science Foundation (NSF). Appointments will usually be made for one year and may be extended for an additional year by mutual agreement.

NSF Program Directors bear the primary responsibility for carrying out the Agency's overall mission: to support innovative and merit-reviewed activities in basic research and education that contribute to the nation's technical strength, security, and welfare. To discharge this responsibility requires not only knowledge in the appropriate disciplines, but also a commitment to high standards, a considerable breadth of interest and receptivity to new ideas, a strong sense of fairness, good judgment, and a high degree of personal integrity.

Applicants should have a Ph.D. or equivalent experience in biological sciences, chemistry, computer science, engineering, geosciences, mathematical sciences, physics/astronomy, social sciences, or science, mathematics, or engineering education, plus six or more years of successful research, research administration and/or managerial experience pertinent to the above disciplines. Candidates must be knowledgeable about undergraduate education in the sciences and related areas to participate in planning programs to improve undergraduate education. In addition, candidates must have sufficient teaching experience to determine whether a proposed project is likely to meet the needs of students and faculty. Also desirable are knowledge of the general scientific community and strong skills in written and oral communication. All appointees are expected to function effectively both within specific programs and as part of a team, contributing to and coordinating with organizations in the Directorate, across the Foundation, and with other Federal and State government agencies and private-sector organizations.

It is anticipated that Program Directors with expertise in computer science, engineering, geosciences, and social sciences will be recruited for appointments beginning in summer 2005 and Program Directors with expertise in biology, chemistry, computer science, engineering, mathematics, and physics/astronomy will be recruited for appointments beginning in summer 2006.

Program Director positions recruited under this announcement may be filled under one of the following appointment options:

- **Visiting Scientist Appointment.** Appointment to this position will be made under the Excepted Authority of the NSF Act. Visiting Scientists are on non-paid leave status from their home institution and appointed to NSF's payroll as Federal employees. NSF withholds Social Security taxes and pays the home institution's contributions to maintain retirement and fringe benefits (i.e., health benefits and life insurance), either directly to the home institution or to the carrier.
- **Intergovernmental Personnel Act (IPA) Assignment.** Individuals eligible for an IPA assignment with a Federal agency include employees of State and local government agencies or institutions of higher education, Indian tribal governments, and other eligible organizations in instances where such assignments would be of mutual benefit to the organizations involved. The individual remains an employee of the home institution and NSF provides funding toward the assignee's salary and benefits

- **Temporary Excepted Service Appointment.** Appointment to this position will be made under the Excepted Authority of the NSF Act. Candidates who do not have civil service status or reinstatement eligibility will not obtain civil service status if selected. Candidates currently in the competitive service will be required to waive competitive civil service rights if selected. Usual civil service benefits (retirement, health benefits, life insurance) are applicable for appointments of more than one year.

For additional information on NSF's rotational programs, please see "Programs for Scientists, Engineers and Educators" on the NSF website at [http://www.nsf.gov/about/career\\_opps](http://www.nsf.gov/about/career_opps). For additional information about the DUE, please see the Division's website at <http://www.nsf.gov/div/index.jsp?div=DUE>.

Individuals interested in applying for a Program Director position should send a current CV and statement of interest to:

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REFLECTS THE DIVERSITY OF OUR NATION.**